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Order 99-12-31



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation  
on the 29th day of December, 1999

Essential Air Service at

**WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA, and  
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA**

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Served: January 3, 2000

Dockets  
OST-1999-  
5173 -10  
OST-1999-5177-11

**ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION**

**Summary**

By this Order, the Department of Transportation is extending Great Lakes' service obligation at Williston and North Platte for another 30 days, through February 2, 2000.

**Background**

On March 2, 1999, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express (Great Lakes), filed 90-day notices of intent to suspend its subsidy-free essential air service at Williston, North Dakota, and North Platte, Nebraska, effective May 31, 1999. By Order 99-5-12, May 24, 1999, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service at the communities for 30 days beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through June 29, 1999, and requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service at the two communities. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through January 3, 2000, by Order 99-11-16, November 24, 1999.

Great Lakes has submitted proposals, with subsidy requests, to provide three round trips each service day for two years at each community. Great Lakes has also submitted a proposal to provide two round trips each service day at Williston without subsidy. Big Sky Transportation Co. has submitted a late-filed proposal to serve Williston with two round trips each service day on a subsidy-free basis. It is unlikely that this case will be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period.

**Decision**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation at Williston and North Platte for an additional 30 days, through February 2, 2000, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR Part 385.

**ACCORDINGLY,**

1. We require Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to maintain essential air service at Williston, North Dakota, and North Platte, Nebraska, as set forth in Appendix C of Order 99-5-12, for an additional 30-day period through February 2, 2000, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;<sup>1</sup>
2. We direct Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years, or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
3. Dockets OST-1999-5177 and OST-1999-5173 will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayors and airport managers of North Platte, Nebraska, and Williston, North Dakota; the Departments of Transportation of Nebraska, and North Dakota; and Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

**JOHN V. COLEMAN**  
Director  
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this order is available on the World Wide Web at  
<http://dms.dot.gov>*